

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, DECEMBER 15, 1933

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1934 was held at the office of John Russell Pope, 542 Fifth Avenue, on Friday, December 15, 1933. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Lawrie,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Savage,
and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

There was also present Mr. Louis Ayres of York and Sawyer, representing the Board of Architectural Consultants. Mr. Chester A. Aldrich, representing the firm of Delano and Aldrich, architects of the Post Office Department Building, and Mr. A. A. Weinman, former sculptor member of the Commission, were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a. m.

1. NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the Commission a proposed plan for new public buildings in Washington. He stated that about a week ago President Roosevelt had requested Secretary of the Interior Ickes to talk over the matter of additional public buildings with the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Moore said he called on Secretary Ickes and talked with him about the matter, emphasizing the fact that the public buildings should be built adjacent to the White House so as to improve the surroundings of the White House as was contemplated by the Plan of 1901. Mr. Ickes said that he was particularly interested in a site for a new Interior Department Building; the location suggested by Mr. Moore

at 19th and Pennsylvania Avenue pleased Mr. Ickes. Also Mr. Moore said he brought to the attention of Mr. Ickes the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts that the new War and Navy Department Buildings be built along Pennsylvania Avenue west of the White House. Thereupon an appointment was made to meet President Roosevelt at the White House on Thursday, December 7th.

Mr. Moore stated that the conference he had with President Roosevelt and Secretary Ickes at the White House was highly successful and that the President was fully in accord with the plan to build the new public buildings adjacent to the White House. Mr. Moore said:

"I said to the President what the Commission of Fine Arts is interested in now is to carry out the fine arrangement of buildings according to the Plan of 1901, the White House to be the center of the Executive group as the Capitol is the center of the Legislative group. I believe the location selected for the War and Navy Building in the triangle south of New York Avenue very undesirable. It would mean going from Pennsylvania Avenue through a back yard to the public buildings and it would leave Pennsylvania Avenue west of 17th Street in a very bad condition since it is now rapidly deteriorating into slum conditions, whereas Pennsylvania Avenue is the most important thoroughfare of Washington and should be developed in a fine way west of the White House the same as it is being developed east of the White House. Around Lafayette Square the Treasury Department Annex should be extended northward to H Street and on the west side of Lafayette Square the State Department should be built. Then the State, War and Navy Building should be remodeled to look like the Treasury Department Building and used as the President's executive offices."

Mr. Moore said he had got specific data about the personnel of the War and Navy Departments and found that in each case there are not more than

4,000 employees so that a building not much larger than the Internal Revenue Building is needed for either the War or Navy Departments.

The locations were noted on a public buildings plan. Mr. Pope and Mr. Ayres listened with interest to the plan to improve the area near the White House but expressed the view of the Board of Architectural Consultants that the War and Navy Buildings should be built on the south side of the Mall so that assurance would be given that the Mall would be protected. A discussion followed during which Mr. Moore pointed out that the southwest area near the water front has been given over to industrial purposes as was contemplated by the Plan of 1901. Mr. Moore was of the opinion that the War and Navy officers and employees would never be satisfied with placing the War and Navy Buildings in that locality. The Secretary said it was certain the War and Navy personnel would not move to Southwest or Southeast Washington just to be near their Department buildings if they were erected there and said further he thought these buildings would not be necessary to provide public buildings bordering the Mall.

The Secretary pointed out that the Smithsonian Institution has been assigned space for expansion on the south side of the Mall; furthermore, there are needed such public buildings as the General Accounting Office and an Armory. These buildings would take up most of the remaining squares available since a considerable part of the rest of the area south of the Mall adjacent to the Capitol is being occupied by the United States Botanic Garden and grounds. Thereupon the discussion centered on locations for buildings near the White House.

Mr. Ayres felt the War Department Building should take in the square at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue and at the same time, the 17th Street frontage down to the Corcoran Gallery should be improved. Mr. Pope and the members of the Commission concurred in this. Also they agreed that the State Department Building should be built west of Lafayette Square. It was also agreed that the Interior Department Building could take up the two squares south of Pennsylvania Avenue between 18th and 19th Streets. The Navy Department Building could be built on the square at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue on the north side of the Avenue.

Independent Offices Building. Mr. Moore informed the Commission of the fact that President Roosevelt had expressed his interest in the Archives Building and the question had been raised whether the Independent Offices Building should be built at the point agreed on at the apex of the triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Moore stated further that the Commission of Fine Arts had approved the plans for the building and that the question of erecting the building was really in the hands of the Treasury Department, which could proceed as soon as funds are available, although conditions have changed somewhat since the plans were approved, in that the Archives Building was designed after it had been decided to build the Independent Offices Building at the apex of the Triangle.

Mr. Moore said further that just yesterday the Federal Trade Commissioners, who employ about 400 people and have a growing force, called on him personally and protested against their present quarters, which are an old dilapidated temporary war building at 20th and Constitution Avenue. The question placed before the Commission was whether the Independent Offices Building should be

built at that point or whether another site should be selected. Mr. Pope was greatly concerned in the matter and said that he designed the Archives Building with the understanding that the Independent Offices Building would be built at the site agreed on, that his building faces the cross axis of the Mall at 7th Street and that with this in view his building has been set back from the building line established by the Department of Justice, Internal Revenue and the other department buildings along Constitution Avenue. The Independent Offices Building will thus not only help to give a setting for the Archives Building but it will also connect the group of buildings to be constructed some time in the future along Constitution Avenue eastward near the Capitol. Mr. Pope said if the Apex Building is not built there it will cause the Archives Building to look like a stub-end and will throw it over toward the Municipal Center group. Further if the Archives Building were made the end building of the Triangle, he would have to turn it around, that is, facing east, but this could not be done now since the walls are rapidly nearing completion.

The Commission thereupon concurred in the erection of the Independent Offices Building at the apex of the Triangle. Mr. Moore said he was very glad to have Mr. Pope's comment on this question since it was the crux of the matter and that he wishes now to inform the President of the situation as soon as possible. A report was sent to the President (Exhibit A); also a letter to Bennett, Parsons and Frost, (Exhibit A-1).

2. GREAT PLAZA OF THE TRIANGLE: The Commission considered with Mr. Pope and Mr. Ayres the question of development of the Great Triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Moore said that recently the suggestion has been made by members of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission that the

that the long pool proposed for the center of the plaza should be omitted. The Commission of Fine Arts agreed to this as it would seem to be in the interests of the design. After consideration, Mr. Pope and Mr. Ayres felt likewise that the pool should be eliminated. The question then arose as to how the central area should be treated. It was generally agreed that it should be a fine grass panel flanked by a balustrade and planted with trees.

The Secretary read a letter received from Mr. Clarke on the subject.

The Secretary also stated that he had heard from Mr. Bennett that Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert desires that the Board of Architectural Consultants, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts have a joint meeting in the near future to consider the question of the revised plan for the Great Plaza. This joint meeting is to be held on January 18, 19, or 20, 1934, during which time the National Capital Park and Planning Commission meets in Washington.

It was felt generally that since the pool will be eliminated the sunken portion of the great plaza need not be more than four feet down. Commenting on this matter, Mr. Swartwout wrote on December 15, 1933:

"Supplementing our discussion this morning, about the difference in grade in the large court, I noticed this noon the terrace around the New York Public Library. I roughly measured the height of the floor of the terrace above the sidewalk level at the left hand side of the entrance. It measures about 3'2"; I am not certain about the height of the balustrade, but it is probably about 3'8". It seemed pretty high to me and I really would not advocate any greater difference in grade than that. I am sending a copy of this letter to Ayres, Pope, Aldrich and Howells, and Clark."

The feeling generally among the members was that the Great Plaza should not be depressed more than four feet. Mr. Pope called attention to the fact that the Oscar Straus Memorial site provided for a sunken area five feet deep but that the pedestal could be redesigned for a depth less than that.

The Commission expressed deep regret that Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke could not be present to consider the landscape features in connection with the Great Plaza but were greatly pleased to hear from Mr. Howells and Mr. Savage that Mr. Clarke is recovering from his operation.

Mr. Ayres said that when the plan for the Great Plaza was prepared he felt that it was a mistake to use so large a part of it for a reflecting basin and he was glad to see the basin removed. The Commission decided that the balustrade should be built now. With a depression of four feet it would be eight feet eight inches to the top of the balustrade. The plaza is 600 feet in length.

3. PENNSYLVANIA ~~RAILROAD~~ RAILROAD BRIDGE: Major J. D. Arthur, Jr., U. S. Engineer of the Washington District, with letter of December 13, 1933, as follows, submitted a design received from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the new railroad bridge (Magruder Bridge) to be built across the Anacostia in Northeast Washington:

Subject: Reconstruction of Magruder Bridge across Anacostia River.

To: The Commission of Fine Arts, Interior Dept. Building,
Washington, D. C.

1. At the request of the Pennsylvania Railroad there are forwarded herewith plans for the new bridge to cross the Anacostia River through Anacostia Park near the District of Columbia boundary line to replace the structure washed out during the storm of August 22-23, 1933.

2. The plans were developed by the railroad company along the lines informally suggested by Mr. Moore to Mr. E. A. Schmitt, Senior Engineer of this office, for a structure with simple, straightforward lines without too much ornamentation.

3. The railroad company has cooperated with the United States in increasing the opening under the bridge from 158 feet previously available to the 300 ft. width between seawalls established for the Anacostia River. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission

from a planning standpoint had urged that the 300 ft. width be provided and that no roadway underpasses be required at the bridge ends due to the low elevation and because the road crossings over the railroad can be more advantageously made on high ground back from the river. The skew of the bridge piers has been reduced 8 degrees from that existing in the original bridge.

4. In order that all reasonable requirements may be considered in the reconstruction of this bridge, this office would be glad to receive the comments and suggestions of the Commission of Fine Arts upon the bridge plans. Should the Commission desire further data or maps of the locality, such data will be furnished you by Mr. Schmitt upon direct request. As the railroad company is desirous of proceeding with reconstruction, early action by the Commission would be appreciated.

(Signed) J. D. Arthur, Jr.,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer.

The architect members of the Commission inspected the design. It was noted that the bridge is to be built of concrete and steel and that it would have a length of about 360 feet and provide for two tracks. It was also noted that the design calls for a quite simple bridge. The Commission approved the design and a report was sent to Major Arthur accordingly. (Exhibit B)

4. BATHING POOLS: Mr. John L. Nagle, representing the office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, submitted two designs for two new bathing pools to be built under the Public Works Program--one to be located at Takoma Park and the other along Georgia Avenue opposite Howard University. Mr. Nagle called attention to the fact that in design these pools are similar to the one built at the McKinley High School, which is regarded a general type of bathing pool, the design of which may be used for pools in different parts of Washington. The design of the McKinley bathing pool was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts several years ago. Mr. Nagle said that in making the designs for these new pools they had made a few changes in matters of detail. For instance, a cupola had been placed on the building. Mr. Nagle said the cupola could be built for \$500; the Commission said that it improved the appearance of the building.

The bathing pool for the Georgia Avenue site Mr. Nagle said involved a problem in that the ground along Georgia Avenue is level with the street; thus a one story structure facing the street is called for on that side but the west wall requires a height of two stories on account of the drop in the topography. The Commission felt that the building had been satisfactorily designed to meet the situation. However, Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Howells suggested that there be more wall space, this to be attained by reducing the number of windows. The Commission concurred in this criticism. With these suggestions the plans were approved and a report was sent to the office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations accordingly. (Exhibit C)

5. CROSS AXIS FOR THE MALL: Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the Commission a copy of a letter received from Mr. William E. Parsons of Bennett, Parsons and Frost, of Chicago, sent by the firm to Mr. David Lynn, regarding a proposed cross axis for the Mall between 7th and 9th Streets. It was noted that the plan provides for a pool in the Mall area and that the tree planting scheme for the Mall would be affected. Mr. Pope said that the plan had been brought to his attention and that it fits in with the plan for the Archives Building since that building has been designed to face the Mall.

Action regarding the plan was deferred until the joint meeting to be held in January.

6. SIGN AT SIXTH AND C STREETS, N. W.: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission Application No. 274 for alteration of the Orienta Coffee Building at Sixth and C Streets, N. W. and for a sign to be placed on top of the building. Mr. Moore called attention to the fact that the Commission had disapproved a number of roof signs in the Shipstead-Luce Act area and that this sign would be conspicuous in view of its nearness to the

Capitol. After consideration, the Commission decided that in accordance with a ruling made by the Commission, the Orienta Coffee Company should be permitted to erect a sign not more than 25 feet square. The erection of the roof sign was disapproved. A report was sent to the Building Inspector. (Exhibit D)

7. PEDIMENT, ARCHIVES BUILDING: Mr. A. A. Weinman, sculptor, submitted a photograph of his model for the pediment of the Archives Building to face Pennsylvania Avenue. In design it represents the following:

"The Center Figure, flanked by two Eagles, is symbolic of 'Destiny', behind which appear two flying figures, the 'Genii of the Sacred Fire'.

The group at the right of center figure represents "The Arts of War" and the group following it 'The Romance of History'.

The group at left of center figure represents 'The Arts of Peace' followed by the group 'The Song of Achievement'. At either end are Griffons guarding the Secrets of the Archives."

The photograph was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lawrie, and he considered it with Mr. Weinman, who was present. Mr. Lawrie regarded the sculpture of the model excellent, as shown in the photographs, and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. A report was sent to Mr. Weinman accordingly. (Exhibit E)

8. ARMILLARY SPHERE: The Commission made a trip of inspection to the Roman Bronze Works in Brooklyn to inspect the Armillary Sphere designed by C. Paul Jennewein, sculptor. The Commission inspected the sphere in company with Mr. Weinman and Mr. Jennewein. Mr. Weinman said that during the summer months the sphere was at the Philadelphia Art Museum and on its return trip had been broken in a few places. The Roman Bronze Works were about to repair it. Mr. Jennewein said that this damage to the sphere had brought out the fact that the base must be strengthened. Mr. Weinman and Mr. Lawrie

considered this matter very carefully and pointed out where brackets could be better fastened to the sphere and showed where the base itself could be strengthened. The representatives of the Roman Bronze Works said that they would attend to this very promptly. The sphere is to be shipped to Washington early in the spring. The Commission were satisfied with the Sphere. (Exhibit F)

The Commission were the guests of Mr. Howells at the University Club for luncheon. The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p. m.

C O P Y

December 19, 1933.

The President.

Sir:

At your request the Commission of Fine Arts have considered the question of the location of new Departmental Buildings. The Commission respectfully recommend as follows:

First. That the State, War and Navy Building be remodeled and brought into architectural harmony with the Treasury Department, substantially in accordance with the plans as already approved. That the interior of the building be reconditioned to serve as the Office of the President of the United States.

Second. That the Department of State be located in Square 167, immediately west of Lafayette Square.

Third. That the Department of the Interior be located on Squares 141 and 142, with the main front facing Pennsylvania Avenue.

Fourth. That the War Department and the Navy Department be located in the immediate vicinity of the White House, and to the west thereof; and that their main fronts should face Pennsylvania Avenue.

Fifth. That the Treasury Annex be extended from Pennsylvania Avenue to H Street, according to plans already prepared.

Sixth. That the Apex Building be built now in accordance, substantially, with the plans already made.

EXHIBIT A

The fundamental principles of such grouping are laid down and discussed in the Plan of 1901. This plan, reported to the Senate on January 15, 1902, has been followed since that time in the steady development of the City of Washington into a national capital in which the people of the United States justly take pride.

In the Plan of 1901, buildings relating to legislative work were grouped around the Capitol. Buildings relating to the executive work were grouped around the White House. The logic and orderliness of this arrangement is beyond question. The Capitol group has been constructed as need has arisen for buildings. The White House group has been about half built. The opportunity now has come to complete the group, with the White House as its center or focal point.

The plan as above outlined has been studied carefully and extensively and the recommendations herein made can be defended by this Commission as to the suitability of the particular locations selected and also as to their superiority over either of the other locations that have been discussed in the past.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

C O P Y

December 19, 1933.

Gentlemen:

The question of building the Apex Building (so-called) at the present time having been officially referred to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice, the Commission have considered the matter and are ready to report that the Apex Building should be built now in substantial accord with the plans as drawn. The Commission, however, suggest a re-study of the easterly end of the building and the elimination of the low extension of the building.

The Commission regard the Apex Building as a necessary ending of the Triangle Group, and as performing an esthetic as well as a practical function.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Bennett, Parsons and Frost,
80 East Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois.

EXHIBIT A-1

C O P Y

December 16, 1933.

Dear Major Arthur:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 16, 1933, inspected the plans for the Magruder Bridge to be built by the Pennsylvania Railroad across the Anacostia River. The plans received the particular attention of the architect members of the Commission.

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the plans.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major J. D. Arthur, Jr., Engineer,
U. S. Engineers Office,
Room 1068, New Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington, D. C.

December 16, 1933.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on December 15, 1933, were pleased to inspect drawings submitted in your behalf by Mr. John L. Nagle, Engineer, for two new bathing pools to be built under the Public Works Program--one at Takoma Park and one adjacent to Georgia Avenue opposite Howard University. The Commission approved the drawings.

A few suggestions in matters of detail were made to Mr. Nagle that will be adopted in the construction plans. In particular the architect members of the Commission felt that the number of windows might be reduced somewhat so as to give more wall space.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Parks, Buildings and
Reservations,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

December 18, 1933.

Dear Sir:

Application No. 274 for alteration and new sign on the Orienta Coffee Building at 6th and C Streets, N. W., was considered by the Commission of Fine Arts at a meeting held December 15, 1933. The Commission disapprove this application, but would approve a sign on Sixth Street 25 square feet in total area.

In order to carry out the Shipstead-Luce Act of Congress this Commission disapprove all applications for roof signs in the area prescribed in the Act. The purpose of this Act is to secure good order along the great thoroughfare of Washington. To this end the Government is spending hundreds of millions of dollars; and Congress has provided for cooperation of private interests.

The papers are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Building Inspector,
District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

December 16, 1933.

Dear Mr. Weinman:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 15, 1933, were pleased to inspect photographs of your model for the pediment of the Archives Building to face Pennsylvania Avenue. The photographs received the attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. The Commission of Fine Arts approved the model.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. A. A. Weinman,
234 Greenway South,
Forest Hills, L. I.,
New York.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

December 19, 1933.

Dear Mr. Jennewein:

The Commission felt that they spent a profitable hour with you at the Roman Bronze Works. You know that this Commission regard the Sphere as its particular project and therefore the members feel that it must be made firm and right in every way. They are satisfied with the Sphere itself. All they want now is to have it adequately supported by supports that seem an integral part of the scheme, designed from the beginning. They do not want the supports to seem an after-thought.

As to the gold: I understood that the suggestion came from you and that you thought it might be well to use gold on the raised figures. The Commission would prefer to leave the matter with you, only they advise a very sparing use, if at all.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Mr. C. P. Jennewein,
538 Van Nest Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT F

MR. LOUIS A. SIMON represented the Supervising Architect's office.

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANTS: MR. E. H. BENNETT, Chairman.
MR. JOHN RUSSELL POPE.
MR. CLARENCE C. ZINTZINGER
MR. CHESTER H. ALDRICH.

On motion by MR. MOORE, MR. F. A. DELANO was unanimously designated Chairman to preside over the joint meeting.

MR. LOUIS SIMON announced that the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury would join the meeting later. He also stated that one of the purposes of the meeting was to consider the Great Plaza in the Triangle.

MR. DELANO in opening the meeting stated: "In my capacity as Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, I should state our attitude. The Commission was created under the Act of 1926, setting up a Commission of eleven members, seven officials of the Government and four private citizens. It proposed to set up a planning and park purchasing Commission. The Act is explicit as to what we should do. I think it is very important to how to the line on that. While I see no objection to taking part informally in a discussion of the question of the court surrounded by these buildings, that is really not our function. To remind you a little bit of our contact with the question - when we began to function in 1926, much property in the Triangle had already been purchased. In 1926 plans for the Triangle buildings were already advanced. The suggestions of the committee of our Commission were first that the Triangle should be considered as a whole; a single composition with buildings bearing harmonious relation to each other. We recommended also that the Pennsylvania Avenue fronts should be considered as facades rather than buildings cornered up to the Avenue as buildings had done up to that time. We recommended limited heights for buildings. That was important with relation to the city and carried out our desire of not blanking out or over-awing the Capitol building. We also recommended that as the use of the buildings would add to the use of automobiles in this area going to and from the buildings, provision should be made in this composition taking care of cars used by employees of the buildings. These recommendations were generally followed by you. The only one that was not carried out was the one taking care of the parking of cars. We think in our relations with problems in Washington, we had better do the things we are appointed for and let you do the things assigned to you. If you want us to sit in and listen, we have no objection to that. The only grounds on which we feel authorized to object is when a building is put in a location we feel it should not be in, or feel it is at a height that would be objectionable, or it is located so that it closes off an important traffic artery. We will not dictate to the Treasury or Fine Arts Commission the style of their buildings. That is outside the functions of our Commission."

MR. SIMON stated in regard to the Plaza - "Tentative drawings were submitted to the Fine Arts Commission several times and finally others were submitted, and the Commission wrote a letter indicating their satisfaction generally with the plans laid down. Cabinet sketches were made for submission to the Secretary of the Treasury and they are awaiting final approval now. Approval has been given to the tentative sketches."

MR. BENNETT stated in regard to the Plaza plans - "The working sketches are now 85 percent completed. We had proceeded to the point of the second half of the drawings when the sketches were 85 percent completed. In the meantime we had passed through the stages of the Strauss Memorial and conferences with regard to approaches to the garage. As to the design of that ramp, when your message, signed by you and MR. DELINO, was received advising that various suggestions were being considered, these were made in the plans. Then MR. ROBERT wrote me stating that the best way to solve the problem was to have a joint meeting. I have made drawings attempting to interpret the views expressed in that letter. We met yesterday and discussed this with our Board, with the result that a resolution was passed again in substance approving the plan as submitted to the Fine Arts Commission, but leaving open the question of what should be in the central panel - whether it should be grass or water. There was some opinion for grass rather than water. The Board should resolve whether the plan is satisfactory."

MR. DELINO stated - "It is unfortunate that the impression was given that the Park and Planning Commission put that forward. MR. HUBBARD and I did attend a meeting and I did sign the letter, but my desire was to cooperate and was done with the thought that the Park and Planning Commission has no voice in connection with the work of actually laying out these buildings."

MR. MOORE replied, "We are trying to get all the advice we can to get a solution of the problem."

MR. BENNETT presented two plans for the development of the Plaza in the Triangle, one with a grass panel, and the other with a central pool. He stated - "The only changes in the new plan over the plan submitted consist of the use of larger trees and a slight change in the western end of the Strauss Memorial to move it further from the street, because it seemed to be too close to traffic. The plan indicated here is as previously indicated with those exceptions. I have prepared a plan based on the letter I received. This provides for a grass panel, bordered by three rows of trees in gravel and one row in gravel, if desired, on the opposite side of the axis, making four rows of trees on either side. Grass might be better, according to certain members of the Board. The question is should there be a brilliant effect or a quiet effect. If the water design is adopted, you will get the reflection of the buildings and shade trees. I think you will get a better architectural effect from the water plan than from the other."

The Chairman asked the different members for expression of opinion. These are briefly extracted below:

MR. ZANTZINGER: "I think MR. BENNETT has ably stated the views of the Board.

MR. SIMON: "The first point is whether this is an interpretation of the letter which MR. BENNETT read."

MR. ZANTZINGER: "I have always had the same view MR. MOORE has of having as much grass as possible in any park or court in relation to the buildings in Washington, and have talked so much about it that the rest of the members smile when I say 'grass'. I thoroughly approve Plan B as far as it goes. I did not like the original plan because of the great amount of paved space. About the water and grass question, I feel that an area of that size should have a good grass plot. I do not personally agree with what the Commission said that there should be no planting in the niche. I think that is too big not to have any trees. I think it would be a shame not to break up the niche. As to the question of water or grass, the plan on the left marked "A", I think personally I would be happy to see it grass. I think a pool of that size is fine, but you would have to have so many paths and roads that it does not satisfy me as having enough turf for such an area. It should do its part in the summer and not reflect too much sun. The plan on the left is a very happy solution whether you put grass or water in the middle panel."

MR. ALDRICH: "I feel that the left plan expresses my views. The shape of the middle panel should be long and narrow and should be accented to take away from the great width of the court. MR. W. A. DELANO also felt the middle area should be in grass and not a pool. In regard to the planting of the niche, we thought it would be a good idea to have planting, but not too high."

MR. POPE: "Many of the points in doubt have already been taken up. The plan on the left is perhaps, whether it is grass or water, the better piece of architecture and landscape composition than the one on the right."

MR. ARTHUR BROWN, JR., representing the Labor Department: "We will have this building and will have traffic flowing from three different directions. The use of the wide panel which would include water as well as grass perhaps in a plaza as large as that would be a desirable thing. My personal taste would be that if it is practicable to use water, it would give a variety that would be agreeable."

MR. HUBBARD: "Perhaps these two plans are not so far apart. I think the opinion of the two bodies is about the same. The actual form of the open space in the middle is identical. It might be possible to treat this grass area with paths which would give you a different arrangement. The mass form of the thing is identical in the two cases. Think it is an open question whether it would be more comfortable sitting on gravel under the trees or sitting on grass in the shade."

MR. BENNETT stated that in considering the plan, he associated himself with MR. ROOT, prominent western landscape architect, who stated that a great grass panel was more interesting from the landscape point of view.

MR. CLARKE: "I am rather of the opinion now that it is very important to emphasize these two rows of trees and these should be made important. Whether the trees are of different kinds is also important. I think linden and elms could be put together. I think the two schemes could be worked out so they would be acceptable to everybody."

MR. MOORE: "Another question involved is the balustrade around that sunken portion. It seems to me that should be a sunken garden, and the question of a balustrade around that is one of the points that should be considered now."

MR. BENNETT replied, "This plan contemplates a balustrade wall."

Discussion by MR. SIMON, MR. POPE, MR. MOORE, MR. HUBBARD, MR. B. CAMMERER and MR. BENNETT included construction of fountain and paths in the Plaza; cost of plaza treatment (between \$700,000 and \$800,000, including balustrade).

MOTION unanimously carried by all present excepting members of the Park and Planning Commission, who refrained from voting, that plan designated "A", with grass parcel, is considered the fundamental plan for treatment of the Plaza east of the Commerce Building.

8. Apex Building: (See also Pars. 10 and 12):

MR. MOORE stated that at a meeting in New York, it was generally agreed that the Apex Building performs a very necessary function in the full development of the Triangle.

MR. BENNETT stated that this morning his Board passed a resolution that the attention of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury be called to the recommendation concerning construction of the Apex Building. This building has been designed with relation to the two other buildings and as part of the whole group. The Board has recommended that the building be constructed in accordance with the working drawings.

Discussion by MR. CAMMERER, MR. BENNETT and MR. MOORE included office space requirements of the Interior Department, the Parks Office, the Federal Trade Commission; design of buildings to meet general requirements and not for the needs of any particular department.

No action at this time. (See Pars. 10 and 12).

9. Mall Cross Axis: (See also Par. 11):

MR. DELANO stated that the Planning Commission has received communication from the Fine Arts Commission suggesting consideration of plans for the cross axis of the Mall between 7th and 9th Streets, which is important at this time because the Mall development work is being undertaken.

MR. MOORE stated that the only change involved in approved plans is in the kind of planting that goes in the open space left free of buildings. The Mall roads can go in under either plan. The planting will be changed to give a clear view through the Mall.

Discussion by MR. POPE, MR. PARTRIDGE and MR. DELANO.

No action at this time. (See Par. 11).

10. Apex Building: (See also Pars. 8 and 12):

MOTION unanimously carried that this group (all members voting) recommends to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert the early completion of the Apex Building.

11. Mall Cross Axis: (See also Par. 9):

The meeting continued consideration of the plan for the Mall cross axis.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. POPE and MR. HUBBARD included question of width of open space and tree spacing.

There being no objections, the Chairman announced that the plan for the Mall cross axis, Plan No. 1.5-87, is approved by the Fine Arts Commission, and so far as it affects the spacing of trees, adopted by the Planning Commission.

12. Apex Building: (See also Pars. 8 and 10):

MR. BENNETT presented plans for the Apex Building and discussed design of the building.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. POPE and MR. BENNETT.

No further action.

13. Cooperation between Government Agencies having to do with Planning in Washington:

MR. CAMMERER emphasized the necessity for a greater degree of cooperation between the various Government agencies having building projects in the District of Columbia. His remarks are extracted below:

"While we are here, I am wondering whether we could coordinate our plans a little more in the direction of our basic plans. The Planning Commission has the obligation of preparing plans for streets, height of buildings, location, etc. Every little while something goes wrong which might have been avoided. In carrying out this spirit of cooperation, I am wondering whether in the future when we are planning buildings, the plans of the Planning Commission could be consulted at the start a little more in detail than they have in the past. We have those plans and they have been developed at the

expense of our Commission. If this could be done, it would be of immeasurable assistance. MR. SIMON has been a perfect prince in contacting our Commission and the Fine Arts Commission. I want to make that clear now. We might get together more often and thus avoid errors being made. MR. POPE'S offer was one of the finest pieces of cooperation, and fits in with what we are doing."

MR. DELANO stated, "The Planning Commission is glad to have liason with the Fine Arts Commission and Treasury in order to understand all these problems. I have had people come to my house to see me, to get me to go into things, and if it was a matter for the Fine Arts Commission, I have always suggested to them to go to the proper people. It doesn't mean, however, that we do not welcome the opportunity to talk with you."

MR. MOORE stated, "I think we are pretty closely in touch with you in working along those lines. We are always consulting. When a matter comes to us, we consider whether it comes within the area assigned to us. That is the first question."

14. Pan-American Annex:

MR. MOORE asked whether this body should request a restudy of the Pan-American Annex in connection with the widening of Constitution Avenue.

No action.

15. Ward Circle at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenue: (See also Par. 29):

MR. MOORE stated that the two Commissions have agreed that there should be a circle at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, but the District Commissioners feel that there should be an ellipse with "two cars". There is some hesitancy about asking Harvard University to buy land that will ultimately be street area.

This subject will be discussed on the following day at a joint meeting of the two Commissions.

16. Extension of Government Printing Office:

MR. H. P. CLEMMER, Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, called attention to the proposal to extend the Government Printing Office. The question is whether it should be extended south to Massachusetts Avenue or across North Capitol Street between G and H Streets so that it will be near the railroad.

No action.

17. Remodeling of Pension Office Building:

MR. MOORE called attention to the proposal to remodel the old Pension Office building by the addition of two wings. The new structure not to extend beyond the height of the Court House.

No action.

18. Summary of Meeting:

MR. L. W. ROBERT, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; joined the meeting at this point, and MR. DELANO informed him of action taken on the various subjects.

MR. ROBERT stated, "As far as the Treasury is concerned, it is a great thing for us to have the help and assistance of groups like yours. It is quite a problem even if you know what to do and how to do it. It is a particularly great problem because all of us are so proud of the future we are working for. I know there is the utmost cooperation. I also know there are bound to be differences of opinion, but we expect to get together on them. I hope there is a consensus of opinion for carrying out all of our Triangle. It is good to know there is a pretty general agreement on everything we propose in our Triangle. I am anxious to see that carried out and let the public see just what we have done. There has been a great deal of criticism because the average layman cannot see what will be there when it is finished. It is going to be my object to see that it is completed as rapidly as possible and let the public get the benefit of visiting through the buildings and see what the Government is trying to do for the city of Washington. I understand there will be a report made which I can go over and absorb, and I hope you have touched on the important points and will give it to us as a guide. We are anxious to do the things that will make the city beautiful. We have the Comptroller General's office for consideration now. I have been over the old building and discussed it with the Comptroller General. It is of vast importance. They are simply swamped under now. The chances are we may have approval on that at an early date. The Treasury Department and the whole Government appreciates the fine work you gentlemen are doing in helping us in this great task. If I can be of any particular service, I want you to let me know."

Further discussion by MR. ROBERTS, MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. BENNETT and MR. SIMON included estimated cost of Plaza in Triangle and construction of Apex Building.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting of the four bodies was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. MR. DELANO stated that a joint meeting of the Park and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission would be held on the following morning at 10 a.m.

PRESENT.

PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION: MR. DELANO, Chairman.
MR. CAMMERER, Vice Chairman.
SENATOR KING.
MAJ. HODGSON.
MR. NICHOLS.
MR. HUBBARD
MR. KNEIPP.
MAJ. ELLIOTT.

FINE ARTS COMMISSION: MR. MOORE, Chairman.
MR. LOWRY.
MR. SAVAGE.
MR. CLARKE.
MR. HOWELLS.
MR. CAMMERER, Secretary.

The staff was also present.

19. High Level Bridge to replace Chain Bridge: (See also par. 28):

MR. NOLEN presented for discussion by the joint session studies for a high level bridge to replace the present Chain Bridge.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. CLARKE, MR. HUBBARD, MR. NICHOLS and MR. NOLEN included utilization of river flats on District of Columbia side; tide fluctuation of river; and acquisition of canal.

MOTION unanimously carried -

1. Approving in principle the site for a high level bridge.
2. Approving in a general way the height of the roadway.
3. Approving the fact that a single level bridge is desirable and beyond that exact details of the approaches and the bridge are subject to further study.

(Bridge layout shown on plan bearing File No. 104-63).

20. Addition to Federal Warehouse in Southwest Washington: (See also Par. 45):

MR. LOUIS SIMON presented for approval a plan for the extension of the Federal warehouse in southwest Washington. It is proposed to extend the building eastward, projecting into 7th Street and Virginia Avenue. The addition will be the same height as the present building (7 stories), but with the pent-house two stories higher.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. HUBBARD, MR. CAMMERER, MR. HOWELLS, MR. CLARKE, MR. NICHOLS, MR. NOLEN and MR. SIMON included relation of the warehouse to Archives building and its effect on other buildings in the Triangle; elimination of pent-houses; and blocking two main traffic thoroughfares.

MOTION unanimously carried that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts do not approve of the plans as submitted, but that they are ready to approve plans which are in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) That the addition to the building be substantially symmetrical with the existing building as to plan and elevation about the axis of 8th Street;

(2) That the addition to the building shall not extend beyond the line of Virginia Avenue or of any other street as originally laid out and as shown on the plan for the City of Washington;

(3) That the penthouses shall be no higher and no larger than those of the existing building and shall be set back from the facade of the building by a distance equal to their height.

21. F Street Widening between 7th and 9th Streets:

The Commission discussed the proposal to widen F Street between 7th and 9th Streets on the north side to provide for two-way traffic. The plan discussed will require the removal of the Patent Office steps and street trees.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. CAMMERER, MR. CLARKE, MR. HUBBARD, SEN. KING, MR. NICHOLS and MR. NOLEN included removal of car loading platforms and advisability of reducing or removing Patent Office steps.

MOTION unanimously carried that the plans for widening F Street be restudied and presented at the next meeting.

22. Remodeling General Accounting Office:

The Commission considered the proposal to remodel the interior and exterior of the old Pension Office Building, now occupied by the General Accounting Office, the exterior changes including the addition of two wings extending to the center line of F Street extended.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, SEN. KING, MR. CAMMERER, MR. CLARKE, MR. HUBBARD, MR. NOLEN and MR. JEFFERS included vista to Court House; E and F Street traffic requirements, and realignment of E and F Street curb line.

MOTION unanimously carried that the staff prepare a plan for the continuation of F Street across Judiciary Square, with the width of F Street carried out to the fullest width across the Square, as indicated by MR. CLARKE of the Fine Arts Commission.

23. Columbia Island Plaza and Lee Boulevard Connection: (See also Pars. 27, 39 and 51):

MR. CAMMERER, Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, reported that MR. NAGLE of the Parks Office has staked out on the ground the proposed plan for inspection by MR. HUBBARD and MR. CLARKE.

MR. HUBBARD and MR. CLARKE agreed to go over the plans before adjournment of the meeting.

24. Improvement of Theodore Roosevelt Island:

MR. NOLEN read a letter from MR. OLMSTED to MR. CAMMERER dated January 17, 1934, concerning work on Theodore Roosevelt Island. MR. OLMSTED makes the following recommendations:

1. As a large part of the Island is over-spread with highly inflammable dry weeds, etc., there is great danger that some irresponsible person may start a fire destructive to the woods, upon which so much of the present charm of the Island depends, and which is of the utmost importance to preserve.

2. That approval from the point of view of design should be promptly reached as being needful to the preliminary operations of the clearing, etc., and it should be possible to have the work carried out at once under proper supervision, either by C. C. C. labor or other available labor.

3. The procedure recommended is that except within certain reserved areas where the existing minor vegetation has special value (such areas to be designated by MR. OLMSTED), there should be a complete removal of the fallen and standing dead wood and weed growth, and that the work be done under my detailed instructions which will be given to the foreman as the work proceeds.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. CAMMERER, MR. HUBBARD, MR. CLARKE, MR. MOORE and MR. NOLEN included desirability of having work done under proper supervision; method of procedure; and payment for plans for improving the Island.

MOTION unanimously carried approving the recommendations made by MR. OLMSTED for the preliminary work on Theodore Roosevelt Island.

25. War-Navy Buildings:

MR. DELANO stated that the Park and Planning Commission has endorsed the plans prepared by MR. CORBETT, in accordance with reports of MR. OLMSTED and others of the Planning Commission, for the location of the War-Navy Buildings in the Triangle north of Constitution Avenue and west of 17th Street. These plans have been considered so far as they relate to streets, traffic requirements, ^{and} height of buildings on Constitution Avenue. The Commission has not dealt with the detail architectural feature of the buildings.

MR. MOORE stated that the Fine Arts Commission has never agreed to the site west of 17th Street, north of Constitution Avenue. They are anxious to maintain the integrity of Pennsylvania Avenue as the great avenue of the city, and would like to see the legislative buildings grouped around the Capitol and the executive departments around the White House.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. NICHOLS, MR. HUBBARD, MR. CLARKE and MR. NOLEN included remodeling of State, War and Navy building for President's office; that the President should be provided with a place to hold official and state functions; tunnel to connect White House with State, War and Navy Building; cost of properties in areas contiguous to Pennsylvania Avenue west of 17th Street as compared with remaining private property in the so-called Northwest Triangle; objections to taking income producing properties out of taxation; expansion of Interior Department and George Washington University; future expansion of buildings now constructed on Constitution Avenue; original conception of L'Enfant plan with relation to Pennsylvania Avenue and public buildings; development of property adjoining Lafayette Square; E Street traffic west of 17th Street; the fact that there is sufficient publicly owned property in the Northwest Triangle to accommodate immediate needs for public buildings; and automobile parking around Lincoln Memorial and on park roads.

MR. NOLEN presented studies showing comparative traffic flow on Pennsylvania Avenue and other streets west of 17th Street.

CAPT. WALTER H. ALLEN of the Navy Department was present and stated, "Two years ago the Navy Department favored the location between C and E Streets west of 17th Street. That location was approved at that time. Some months ago the question of locating the building on Pennsylvania Avenue came up. We compared the two sites for transportation and accessibility, and from the point of view of providing space, either site would provide practically the same. From the standpoint of the Navy, it comes down to the question of which site would offer a building the quickest. If this meant that we could get our building sooner, I think this is the site we would approve. We have considered the triangle north of Pennsylvania Avenue and west of 17th Street."

In answer to a question concerning removal of the Naval Hospital, CAPT. ALLEN replied, "The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery are very strong for the present site."

No action.

26. Automobile Parking in Parks:

MR. CAMMERER called the Commission's attention to the increasing use of park roads for the parking of automobiles. He recommended that the Commissions express an opinion on this matter.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. CAMMERER, MR. MOORE and MR. HUBBARD.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Park and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission are of the opinion that automobile parking on all park roads in the Mall, including the cross roads; the roads in the Monument Grounds, and those in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial, should be restricted to the minimum.

The Chairman directed that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, with the statement that this matter has been considered and approved by the two Commissions.

27. Lee Boulevard Connection: (See also Pars. 23, 39 and 51):

MR. HEROLD J. SPEILAN of the Bureau of Public Roads presented report from his office, dated January 18, 1934, containing the following recommendations as to the Lee Boulevard:

... That the Bureau of Public Roads would place the enhancement and protection of Arlington Cemetery, ^{first,} and the proper provision for present future traffic second.

The report also recommended:

That the State Highway Department be asked to construct a highway along Line D to constitute the Lee Boulevard approach up to the point where the proposed line D crosses the present Georgetown Pike, and also be asked to construct the heavy duty road along the Pennsylvania track from the lower Government line to Columbia Pike.

That the Government construct the road on Line D from the Georgetown Pike to the Bridge. This will necessitate acquiring a section of property in this area above the present Government line to accommodate this approach and to accommodate the proposed heavy duty road.

That the Government construct as a parkway the so-called southern route from a point west of Fort Myer around the southern boundary of the Cemetery. For this construction, a line following the general location of the trolley grade is recommended, and it is also recommended that the Government acquire all lands, except the mausoleum between such highway or parkway and the present Cemetery line. This parkway would then act as an effective protection for this boundary of the Cemetery against undesirable exploitation."

The Bureau has prepared a map indicating the work to be done by the State and Federal Governments. The estimated costs are as follows:

North Bridge approach - including land purchases	\$102,000
South Bridge approach - including traffic circle	174,000
Parkway, along southern boundary of Fort Myer -	
including land purchases	436,000
Heavy duty road to replace present Georgetown Pike -	318,000
Total	\$1,030,000

Of the total estimated cost of \$1,030,000, approximately \$274,000 is estimated as the cost of land acquisition, and the balance as construction cost. No amount is included in the estimates for moving any buildings owned by the Government.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. HUBBARD, MR. CLARKE, MR. MOORE, MR. NICHOLS and MR. NOLEN.

MOTION unanimously carried requesting MR. HUBBARD and MR. CLARKE to study this matter in some detail and let the Commission have their recommendations before the close of this meeting.

28. High Level Bridge to replace Chain Bridge: (See also Par. 19):

MR. CAMMERER of the Fine Arts Commission stated that the Board of Trade has asked who will pay for the new bridge. MR. HAZEN, D. C. Commissioner, is of the opinion that Virginia should bear part of the cost.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE and MR. NOLEN.

No action.

29. Ward Statue at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues: (See also Par. 15):

MR. MOORE stated that the two Commissions are in favor of a circle at the intersection of the two Avenues, but the District Commissioners favor a circle with an ellipse within.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. NICHOLS, MR. HUBBARD and MR. NOLEN included traffic requirements of the two Avenues, and assessment of benefits for street improvements.

MOTION unanimously carried that in view of the fact that neither Massachusetts nor Nebraska Avenue is carrying a heavy volume of city traffic, it is considered advisable to develop only an exterior roadway for the time being and postpone decision on the interior ellipse until traffic requirements warrant it.

30. James Creek Canal Property:

MR. ARNO B. CAMMERER recommended that the James Creek Canal Reservations be transferred to his office and improved for park purposes. The areas are now under the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on the Library.

Discussion by MR. DELANO, MR. MOORE, MR. CAMMERER, MR. NICHOLS, MR. NOLEN and MR. JEFFERS included utilization of part of these areas for the Cardoza Recreation Center, parkway drive to War College, and other recreation and utilitarian purposes.

MOTION unanimously carried by the two Commissions that the attention of the Joint Committee on the Library be directed to the unsightly condition of the James Creek Canal reservations, pointing out their need for playground and other purposes, and recommend their transfer to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations. (MR. DELANO stated that he will consult MR. MOORE as to an appropriate letter to the Joint Committee on the Library making these recommendations.)

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING: The meeting of the two Commissions was adjourned at 1:30 p.m., the Park and Planning Commission to continue its meeting at 2 p.m. The members of the Park and Planning Commission present during the morning session continued their presence during the afternoon session.

